



# PRESS RELEASE

## NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE

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October 25, 2005

### SEPTEMBER RED MEAT PRODUCTION

**WEST VIRGINIA – Commercial red meat production** during September 2005 totaled 500,000 pounds. This was down 21 percent from September 2004 but up 8 percent from August 2005 production. Commercial red meat production is the carcass weight after slaughter including beef, veal, pork, and lamb and mutton. Individual commodity production is total live weight of commercial slaughter.

**Commercial cattle slaughter** totaled 693,000 pounds live weight, down 18 percent from September 2004. Cattle slaughter totaled 800 head, down 100 head from the previous year. The average live weight, at 895 pounds, was down 64 pounds from a year ago.

**Commercial calf slaughter** was not published to avoid disclosing individual operations.

**Commercial hog slaughter totaled** 180,000 pounds live weight, down 16 percent from last year. Hog slaughter totaled 700 head, down 100 head from the previous year. The average live weight, at 247 pounds, was down 12 pounds from the previous year.

**Commercial sheep and lamb slaughter** was not published to avoid disclosing individual operations.

**UNITED STATES -- Commercial red meat production** for the United States totaled 3.93 billion pounds in September, up 1 percent from the 3.91 billion pounds produced in September 2004.

**Beef production**, at 2.16 billion pounds, was 3 percent above the previous year. Cattle slaughter totaled 2.78 million head, up 1 percent from September 2004. The average live weight was up 11 pounds from the previous year, at 1,276 pounds.

**Veal production** totaled 13.2 million pounds, 2 percent above September a year ago. Calf slaughter totaled 60,700 head, down 10 percent from September 2004. The average live weight was 43 pounds above last year, at 363 pounds.

**Pork** production totaled 1.74 billion pounds, down 2 percent from the previous year. Hog kill totaled 8.87 million head, 1 percent below September 2004. The average live weight was unchanged from the previous year, at 265 pounds.

**Lamb and mutton production**, at 15.6 million pounds, was down 4 percent from September 2004. Sheep slaughter totaled 231,300 head, 5 percent below last year. The average live weight was 135 pounds, up 2 pounds from September a year ago.

**January to September 2005 commercial red meat production** was 33.9 billion pounds, up slightly from 2004. Accumulated beef production was up slightly from last year, veal was down 7 percent, pork was up 1 percent from last year, and lamb and mutton production was down 4 percent.

**September 2004** contained 22 weekdays (including one holiday) and 4 Saturdays.

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